

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 30, 2006 has been received and carefully studied.

A Request for Continued Examination is filed herewith.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 6, 19 and 20 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,830,717, and claims 1-3, 19 and 20 as being unpatentable over claims 1-18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,635,201 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,830,717.

Submitted herewith are terminal disclaimers to overcome these rejections.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4, 6 and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Kopaciewicz, U.S. Patent No. 6,048,457, and claims 5 and 23 as being unpatentable of Kopaciewicz in view of Wheeler, U.S. Publication No. 2003/01920260.


By the accompanying amendment, claims 1 and 19 have been amended to recite that the quenching bath enters each of the openings simultaneously. Support for the amendment can be found on page 8, lines 18-20 of the instant specification.

As stated in the instant specification, causing the quenching bath to enter spaced openings in the housing

simultaneously allows solvent exchange to be controlled by diffusion; there is no pressure differential driving the quenching bath intrusion. Surprisingly, this results in a denser composite structure than that formed from a single sided quench as in the cited art. See also the data associated with Figure 3. This feature of the invention as now claimed is nowhere disclosed or suggested by the cited art, alone or in combination.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing.

Respectfully submitted,


Kevin S. Lemack
Reg. No. 32,579
176 E. Main Street - Suite 7
Westboro, Massachusetts 01581
TEL: (508) 898-1818